GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2393
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
PERMISSION FOR OIL EXPLORATION
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed off-shore oil exploration on various coasts in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether turtles are being killed on various coasts due to use of the deep water trawlers;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The remedial action proposed/taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India during the year 2005-2006 has granted environmental clearance to 30 projects for offshore oil and gas exploration with investment above Rs.100 crores under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and its subsequent amendments in the East coast, West coast, off the Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Goa coasts.

(c) & (d): During the year 2005 to 2006, a total of 6020 sea turtles have been reportedly killed in the Orissa coast due to use of trawl nets and gill nets of fishing trawlers.

(e): The remedial actions proposed/taken include the following:

(i) Protection of sea turtles under Schedule -1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Prohibition of fishing under the provisions of Orissa Marine fisheries Regulation Act, 1982 by trawlers and mechanized fishing vessels using gillnets within a sea ward radius of 20km from Dhamara mouth (Gahirmatha area) during turtle congregation; in the specified turtle congregation areas such as Devi river mouth and Rushikalya river mouth along the coast upto 10km, and prohibition of fishing by specified categories of gill nets within 5km into the sea in the traditional turtles congregation areas during November to May;

(iii) Regular patrolling in the sea to secure safety of turtles against illegal fishing activities.

(iv) Regular monitoring.